



# Pocket Gophers

## Habitat

Pocket gophers (*Thomomys* spp.) are common, small, soil inhabiting rodents that frequently invade lawns, gardens and golf courses, particularly during spring and early summer when the young animals are dispersing. They tend to seek out well-watered areas as the summer drought increases.

## Breeding

1. Gophers breed all year round and may have up to three litters a year.
2. Litters average five to six young.
3. Young gophers are most often found in spring and early summer. Their presence is easily noticed by mounds of dirt which they push out as they excavate their subterranean tunnels.
4. They are active day and night throughout the year.

## Feeding

Pocket gophers feed largely on roots and tubers/bulbs as well as some leaves, tender stems, and barks.

## Control of Pocket Gophers

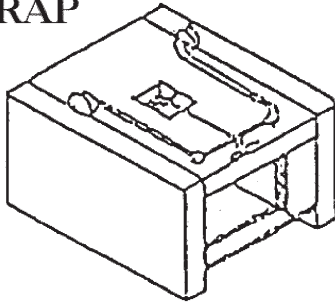
Control should be started at the first indication of their presence. The use of wire macabee traps and box traps are recommended for best results. Control by the use of poison baits may pose some problems to pets and are therefore discouraged.



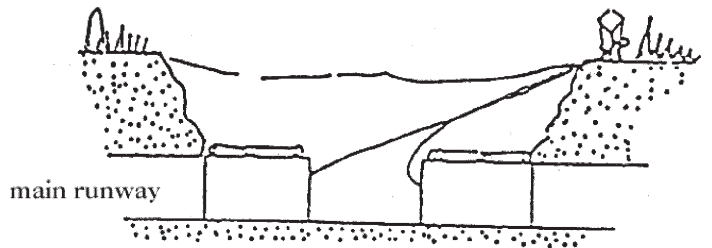
# Trapping Procedure

1. Locate the main runway. Use a small shovel or a pointed metal or stick probe of about 3/8 of an inch in diameter. Note: The probe will suddenly drop about 2 inches when the main runway/tunnel is struck.
2. Use a large spoon to enlarge the hole enough to receive trap(s). Two traps set down into the gopher runway, pointing at each direction will give quicker results.
3. Press trap(s) down firmly.
4. Trap(s) should be tied to a stake on the surface to prevent loss.

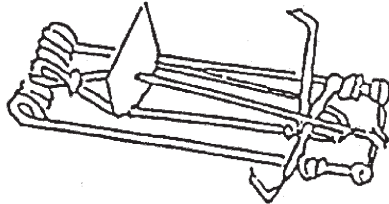
## BOX TRAP



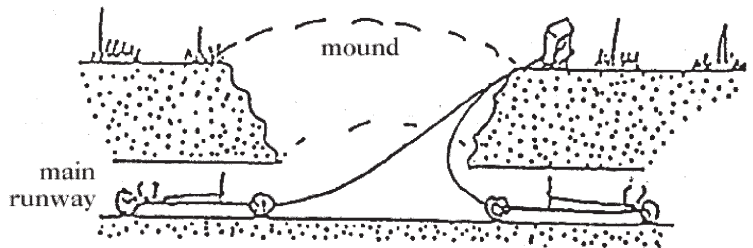
After placing trap(s) shown, close open ends of runway with clod or clump of grass and cover with soil to shut out light.



## WIRE TRAP



After placing trap(s) shown, cover completely with soil, but not more than 1 inch deep on top.



Traps not sprung within 24 hours should be reset in new location.

**Dead Rodent Disposal:** Dead rodents should be buried or wrapped in a plastic bag and thrown into the trash.



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